

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3–6, 9–11, 15, 16, 21–34, and 36–45 remain in this application. No claims are withdrawn. Claims 2, 7, 8, 12–14, 17–20, 35 are canceled.

Objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 16, 23, 27, 28, 36, and 42–43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 2 is canceled. Claims 16, 23, 27, 28, 36, 41, and 42 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 15, 24, 25, and 29–31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Bedsole* (US Patent 5,227,061).

Claims 1 and 31 have been amended to recite a vertical pipe having a plurality of inlets at different vertical levels and in communication with the respective delivery lines. Each one of the plurality of delivery lines extends within the vertical pipe to one of the different vertical levels to receive a separated fluid constituent. The vertical pipe with the inlets as claimed are not taught by *Bedsole*. Also, the vertical pipe with the inlets as claimed was previously listed in claim 2, which the Examiner did not reject under *Bedsole*. Claims 1 and 31 are therefore allowable. The remaining claims are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1 or 31 and are allowable for the reasons given with respect to claims 1 and 31.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 16, 22, 23, 26–28, 32, 33, and 41–45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bedsole*.

Claims 3, 16, 22, 23, 26–28, 32, 33, and 41–45 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1 or 31 and are allowable for the reasons given with respect to claims 1 and 31 discussed above.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 6, 11, 21, and 37–40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 21, and 37–40 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1 or 31 and are allowable for the reasons given with respect to claims 1 and 31 discussed above.

Voluntary Amendments

Certain voluntary amendments to claims 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 16, and 22 have been made to correct antecedent basis and correct other matters. These amendments were voluntary and were not required for purposes of patentability.

CONCLUSION

Although particular claim limitations were discussed, each of the claims should be construed as a whole, and patentability determined in light of this required claim construction. The right is reserved to submit the original claims or any canceled claims in a continuing application and prosecute those original claims fully without regard to any amendments made to those claims in the present application. No scope of the original claims is given up due to the claims amendments or cancellations in the present application.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this communication, he is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite the resolution of this application.

If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore. If any fee is due for such a petition or should any additional fees be required with respect to this application, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account Number 03-0335 of Cameron International Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

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